



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

# DIGEST

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'Courteous Vigilance'

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## Seized weapon

DPS Officers D.J. Hansen and Paul Etnire pose with a "brand new" 20 mm Gatling gun that was found at an elementary school about 50 miles north of Baghdad. The two are members of the Arizona National Guard's 855th Military Police Company which returned to the United States in March following a 14-month deployment in Kuwait and Iraq.

## D.J. Hansen found peace and quiet virtually impossible in Iraq

A football injury took D.J. Hansen out of Saudi Arabia and "Desert Storm" some 13 years ago.

But when it came to Iraq, there was no such "luck" for the DPS officer who is back at his old job with Vehicular Crimes/Collision Analysis after returning in March from a 14-month tour of duty in Iraq with the Arizona National Guard's 855th MP Company.

In Iraq, personnel from the 855th MP Company, which counted Hansen and fellow DPS officers Paul Etnire, Mike Dickinson, John Barber and Steve Kafton among its 138 members, did considerably

more than serve as military policemen.

"In Iraq, there's a joke that 'MP' stands for 'multi purpose' because we were responsible for completing a multitude of different tasks, from training Iraqi police to handling prisoners of war to actual fire fights," Hansen remarked about his time spent in Iraq and Kuwait with the Guard.

"Other tasks involved maintaining security at prisoners of war camps while providing escorts for VIPs, military intelligence personnel and convoys. At times, we were responsible for keeping supply routes open and safe. We also planned and executed

## CCWG pay plan under review by Human Resources

About two years ago, a group of 14 DPS employees, representing a cross-section of the Department, was formed to review the Department's civilian pay plan and develop a new compensation proposal that would be much more equitable for both the agency's civilian employees and the Department.

The Classification/Compensation Working Group (CCWG) was ultimately charged with making some difficult decisions that most likely will affect the way DPS compensates its civilian employees in the future.

The group's decisions and recommendations were also supposed to lead to the replacement of the Department's classification/compensation review (CCMR) program, a pay plan implemented in the early 1990s which left little middle ground in acceptance and appreciation among DPS employees.

In late spring, after nearly 20 months of arduous and exhausting work, the CCWG reached a momentous milestone when it formally finalized the recommendations it hopes to present to the Department's executive staff for consideration and eventual approval.

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raids on residences and market places suspected of harboring terrorists or weapons.

"With our training, we were more advanced in such areas as building entries and searches than those in basic infantry. We also have training in infantry tactics and how to conduct ambushes or assaults."

Hansen related that his time in Iraq was considerably different than the time he spent in Saudi Arabia some 13 years ago during Desert Storm.

"During Desert Storm, our unit was assigned to provide security for a main supply

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From Director  
Dennis Garrett's

## Vantage Point

Over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, law enforcement officers throughout Arizona arrested more than 450 motorists suspected of driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol. These officers also stopped some 10,000 motorists for various other traffic violations.

It's safe to surmise that the presence of our Highway Patrol officers was considerable during this holiday weekend and many of those arrests can be directly attributed to their hard work.

In this state, a blood-alcohol content (BAC) of 0.15 is considered extreme DUI. For some, it's an indication of how serious this state views the drunken driver. In the 1960s and early 70s, a suspected drunken driver had to register a 0.15 just to be legally charged with driving while intoxicated. We later came to grips with the fact that 0.15 was much too liberal and lowered it to 0.10 before recently dropping it a couple more notches to today's more appropriate 0.08.

But even with a 0.08 legal limit and the stiff penalties facing those convicted of extreme DUI, the hardcore drinking driver normally isn't deterred. The recent Fourth of July weekend serves as a dreadful reminder of this irresponsibility.

According to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, most of those 450 or so drivers arrested over the Fourth were charged with extreme DUI as their average BAC was 0.16 percent. Unfortunately, as we all know, most hardcore drinking drivers more than likely have been arrested previously for DUI.

Researchers say these irresponsible and reckless drivers, although relatively small in numbers (about 1 percent), are involved in almost 50 percent of all fatal crashes. It's both distressing and frustrating to realize that law enforcement will never be able to keep all drunken drivers from getting behind the wheel. But, our officers should remember that when each DUI arrest is made, life becomes much safer for the law-abiding.

With Labor Day weekend approaching, there will be another concentrated law enforcement effort to remove the inebriated from driving city streets, county roads and state highways. Of course, our Highway Patrol officers will be very much involved in this effort and again will undoubtedly arrest their share of drunken drivers.

Keep up the good work and be careful.

## LaVada Charbonneau, 59, DPS planner, dies July 8 in Glendale



LaVADA CHARBONNEAU

LaVada Charbonneau, 59, a 24-year DPS employee, passed away July 8 in Glendale from complications associated with acute pancreatitis.

A memorial service for Mrs. Charbonneau, an administrative services officer at DPS, was conducted July 13 at the Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church in Phoenix.

During her career with the Department, Mrs. Charbonneau received the 1997 Arizona Administra-

tors Association employee of the year award for updating an informative manual given to new employees and for developing and implementing an orientation program for new employees.

Additionally, the award recognized her for creating a program by which civilian employees at DPS received recognition upon promotion.

The Oakland, Calif., native who was reared in Oklahoma began her career with the Department as an identification clerk in May 1980. She promoted to criminal records supervisor in August 1983 and then in 1987 to her current position as an analyst with Research and Planning where she assisted in various departmental surveys among her other responsibilities.

During her DPS career, the Phoenix resident served as editor/writer for the DPS annual report and in recent years assisted in the compilation of charts and statistics for this report. In 1999, she coordinated the development of the "Crime Trends in Arizona" report and two years later played a pivotal role in the formulation of the Department's 2001 Strategic Plan.

On at least one occasion, she also was active with the State Employees Charitable Campaign within DPS.

In the early 1990s, she was the agency's employee suggestion program coordinator. In recent years, Mrs. Charbonneau served on the LEMSC Rules Advisory Committee and was considered an au-

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## Serving Our Country



**HULIZER SANTILLANEZ**  
**U.S. Marine Corp**

Lance Cpl. Santillanez is the son of Maria Davila, wife of DPS Metro West HP Officer Luis Davila. Davila's stepson is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq with the Surgical Bravo Co.

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Last month, the *Digest* introduced a new feature honoring children of DPS employees who are in the military. Employees wishing to feature their son/daughter in the *Digest* should send a photo along with a short narrative to Art Coughanour, MD 1200. The *Digest* can also receive e-mail contributions at [acoughanour@dps.state.az.us](mailto:acoughanour@dps.state.az.us).

## DPS officer seizes 20 pounds of meth

A DPS officer seized 20.5 pounds of methamphetamine and five pounds of cocaine during a July 20 traffic stop on Interstate 17 near Cordes Junction.

Investigators estimated that the narcotics seized by Highway Patrol Officer Joseph Proffer during the consent search had a street value of \$1.1 million.

The two occupants of the rental car that was stopped were booked into a Yavapai County jail and charged with various drug-related charges.

Brian Marston, DPS media relations officer in Prescott, said that the bust was the second meth load of this size that DPS officers had seized during I-17 traffic stops in the last three months.

## CCWG ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The recommendations provide DPS with a detailed, focused plan on how it can more fairly classify and compensate its civilian employees.

According to Ted Dick, Facilities supervisor at DPS and CCWG chairman, finalization of the group's recommendations provided members with a fulfilling sense of closure and a prideful sense of achievement.

"After almost two years of difficult work, we feel the most important part of our job is finally finished and that we have prepared a quality package of recommendations for the Department to consider," said Dick, adding that the CCWG has met every two weeks since its formation to compose its recommendations.

Dick said the CCWG feels its recommendations provide the Department with a fair, realistic and cost-effective process to classify and compensate civilian employees for years to come.

In addition, Dick said that because the CCWG consisted of representatives from virtually every area of the agency its recommendations were based mostly on input from agency employees and all should feel that they played a role in the final proposal.

"We are very pleased that these recommendations were based on a very democratic process that allowed all an opportunity to provide input," said Dick, adding that controversy surrounding previous pay plans resulted from employees not having enough influence in the process.

Dick said the CCWG also feels it was able to successfully address, in some form or another, all comments, questions, and concerns posed to the group.

"We definitely believe we addressed every issue and concern about DPS' pay plan that we possibly could within our jurisdiction and ability to do so," said Dick.

Now that the package of recommendations is complete, Dick said the group's goal is to have the plan officially approved by Human Resources and the executive staff before it is introduced to the Law Enforcement Merit System Council.

If all approvals occur on schedule and the agency receives money for next fiscal year, the group's recommendations can be applied and become reality, Dick said.

Currently, the recommendations are under review by Human Resources since HR personnel will be responsible for administering the new compensation process if adopted. Dick said he anticipates HR approval since some of its personnel participated in the meetings conducted by the

CCWG and are familiar with the group's final product.

After review by HR, Dick said the proposal will be formally presented to executive staff for consideration. If the recommendations are approved by Human Resources and executive staff, the compensation plan then will go before the Law Enforcement Merit System Council.

A key element of the proposed CCWG plan is to replace the Department's current three-step salary schedule with a nine-step concept using the same entry and maximum pay levels as the three-step schedule.

This expansion to nine steps would provide employees with the opportunity for more frequent movement through their respective ranges with no additional cost to the Department over the life of the program.

In addition, an expansion to nine steps creates a structure under which the Department can more readily address the effects of salary overlap between classifications, Dick explained.

The CCWG discovered during its various meetings that salary overlap was one of the administrative issues of most concern to DPS employees in regards to compensation.

The CCWG addressed the salary overlap issue by developing an almost seamless "Up and Over" policy in regard to promotions. Under this new policy, when an employee promotes, he/she will go up to the salary schedule of their new classification and over to the step that provides an increase in salary.

If the increase is less than \$500 per year, the employee's salary will be established at \$500 more than his or her base salary before promotion. The employee will then continue through the salary schedule of the new classification based on the anniversary date of the promotion.

With the assistance of Debbie Staudacher of DPS Information Technology, the CCWG was able to conduct a computer analysis of what their proposed recommendations would cost if implemented. Thankfully, Dick said the financial estimates produced by the computer analysis revealed figures that could be "digestible" at DPS given the current personnel services budget.

"The costs to implement all CCWG recommendations appear to be minimal and within a range that the Department most likely can afford," said Dick, adding that some members of the executive staff have echoed similar opinions when reviewing the plan's potential costs to the agency.

A time frame for presentation to executive staff and LEMSC has not been set, Dick said.



### New attorneys

These three attorneys were recently assigned to DPS by Attorney General Terry Goddard. The three new DPS attorneys are (from left) Brian Schneider, Kellie Geyer and Lisa Maxie-Mullins.

## Attorney general assigns 3 lawyers to DPS

Some of the most overlooked and often underappreciated team members at DPS have been the assistant attorneys general assigned to the agency by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Although the assistant attorneys general are technically employed by the AG's Office, their efforts and attentions at work are focused full-time on DPS.

In addition, the legal advice and assistance the group provides DPS often has far-reaching effects at the agency and can dramatically influence the way the Department goes about its daily business.

At present, there are three assistant attorneys general assigned to DPS – Kellie Geyer, Brian Schneider and Lisa Maxie-Mullins. Although each is relatively new to DPS, all possess an array of legal experience and expertise.

Such proficiency comes in handy as each provides legal assistance and services to virtually every area of DPS.

In essence, the group does just about every type of legal work for the agency other than defending it in lawsuits and providing legal advice in employment matters.

Although the legal advice the three provide to DPS is wide ranging, a large percentage of the group's time is spent assisting the agency with the legal complexities of "search

and seizure" issues, the awarding of towing contracts to private companies and "public records" requests.

The legal team also assists DPS with administrative hearings as well as other legal engagements and issues that arise within the agency's various public licensing and permit-type units.

Keeping the group particularly busy with complex legal questions and licensing issues are the Security Guard and Private Investigators Licensing Unit, the Concealed Weapons Permit Unit and the Fingerprint Clearance Card Unit.

The group also provides legal advice and assistance to the agency's Sex Offender Compliance Unit, Student Transportation Unit, Access Integrity Unit and Scientific Analysis Bureau.

Because of the profound effects that many of DPS' licensing and permit-type units can have on people's lives, the legal advice provided to these units by the assistant attorneys general is often critically important.

In addition to these responsibilities, the attorneys also produce law bulletins for DPS officers and are available to provide legal assistance to the Highway Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions.

The team is also available to assist individual employees at DPS, especially sworn

officers, with job-related legal advice and assistance.

If an employee has a job-related legal question, he or she may contact Schneider at (602) 542-8863, Mullins at (602) 542-1680 or Geyer at (602) 542-1639. The phone extension for the group's office at DPS headquarters in Phoenix is 2406.

The assistant attorneys general maintain an office at both DPS headquarters and at the Arizona Attorney General's Office. Their DPS office is located on the second floor next to Suite 265. The group can provide legal training courses when requested.

### Biographical sketches

#### Kellie Geyer

Geyer was born and raised in Seattle. She received her undergraduate degree in Law and Justice from Central Washington University and her law degree from the University of Washington.

Prior to joining the Arizona Attorney General's Office in March, Geyer was a deputy county attorney at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Prior to that, she worked for the Claims Resolution Tribunal for Dormant Accounts in Zurich, Switzerland.

She is married and has lived in Arizona since November of 2000.

#### Brian Schneider

Schneider was born and raised in Phoenix and has lived in Arizona almost his entire life.

He received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. and his law degree from Arizona State University.

Prior to joining the Arizona Attorney General's Office in June, Schneider was in-house counsel for the Arizona Department of Corrections.

He is engaged to be married in October.

#### Lisa Maxie-Mullins

Maxie-Mullins was born in Shreveport, La., and raised in Florien, La.

She received her undergraduate degree in history from Grambling State University and her law degree from Louisiana State University.

Prior to joining the Arizona Attorney General's Office two years ago, Maxie-Mullins worked for the Arizona Medical Board. Prior to that, she worked for the Louisiana Court of Appeals.

Before DPS, she was assigned as an assistant attorney general with the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Maxie-Mullins, who is also licensed to practice law in Louisiana, is married and has lived in Arizona for about four years.

## Surprise allocation revives new telecommunications system

In the beginning, it was baby steps.

Now this much-dreamed about project is on the verge of walking thanks to a surprise appropriation last spring from the Arizona State Legislature.

Within the next few months, senior officials at DPS are optimistic that a statewide radio interoperability telecommunications system it has been supporting since 1996 will take another monumental step towards reality.

Their optimism stems from an unexpected \$2-million allocation approved by the Legislature during the waning moments of the 2004 legislative session. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Steve Huffman, R-Tucson and strongly supported by four of his colleagues within the state House, authorizes the establishment of the Arizona Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission and provides funds for the staffing of the Commission.

Recently, the system received another \$3 million boost when the state reached additional projected revenue triggers.

The Commission, which replaces the Arizona Public Safety Advisory Committee, will align itself within the operational umbrella of DPS and function within the model guidelines established by the 12-member advisory committee consisted of representatives from police, fire and sheriff's departments along with personnel from emergency management and emergency medical services.

With the much-appreciated appropriations in hand, the Department is on the doorstep of recruiting and developing a Commission staff whose primary responsibility will be to move public safety radio telecommunications throughout Arizona well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Replacing today's outdated and sometimes inefficient radio telecommunications system will not occur quickly, nor will it be inexpensive. Quite to the contrary. Most likely it will cost in the neighborhood of \$300 million to develop and implement this system that will eventually provide public safety entities in Arizona the ability to access a seamless and integrated communication system, not only during times of crises and emergencies, but during daily operations as well.

If consistent funding is forthcoming through state, federal, and Homeland Security-type grants, there is hope that this statewide communications enterprise will be operational within the next six years.

Although the combined \$5 million is just a start, it provides DPS with the resources to begin staffing the Commission.

"It also will allow us to begin the serious planning and engineering work that is required for such a complex system," said Lt. Col. David Felix, assistant director of the Criminal Justice Support Division.

The Department already has initiated a nationwide search for an executive director of the Commission. The executive director will participate in the hiring of a project manager, three telecommunications engineers, a technical writer, a communications specialist, an executive assistant and an administrative assistant.

Felix said those interested in any of the positions with the Commission should contact the Department's Human Resources Bureau. Human Resources also is approachable through the Department's Web site, [www.dps.state.az.us](http://www.dps.state.az.us) or by telephone 602-223-2290.

"Moving forward with this project is something we have been envisioning for the past few years," Felix said. "To put it succinctly, we are quite excited about the support and the funding we have received from the Legislature and Gov. Janet Napolitano. We are now ready to move forward and we urge those who want to get in on the ground floor of this project to contact us. We have numerous positions to fill, both within the Commission and within the Department."

The DPS lieutenant colonel said the Commission will continue the work developed by the advisory committee during the past four years.

"Commission staff will foster, recommend and develop technical standards; oversee conceptual and detailed design efforts; and pursue funding to build and maintain a statewide system for use by all local, state, tribal and federal public safety entities in Arizona," Felix said. "The Commission will continue to work closely with all public safety entities to insure a system design that will meet the needs of these groups."

The origin of Arizona's journey into the concept of telecommunications interoperability first surfaced some 40 years ago when current DPS Director Dennis Garrett was a rookie cop with the Phoenix Police Department.

"When I came out of the Phoenix police academy in 1964, I was told that we would have a system that all you would have to do is switch to a specific channel on the radio and you would be able to communicate with a Highway Patrol officer, a deputy or another law enforcement agency," the director reminisced. "But here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we still can't do it, but I think this appro-

priation is a substantial step in that direction."

The reality of the concept first started taking hold at DPS in the spring of 1996 when the Department introduced Project Crystal.

At that time, DPS was on the doorstep of developing Project Crystal, a digital-trunking based communications system which would be designed to allow officers in the field radio access to communicate with each other and other public safety personnel from other agencies without patching or by deploying some other stop-gap measure.

This would be accomplished simply by switching to a predesignated channel.

At the time the Department introduced this concept, the state's economy was rolling along. But before the idea could be sold to the Legislature, the state's economy, as well as the nation's, turned south so Project Crystal, headed by Commander Terry Conner, was shelved and remained in storage until this spring when the Legislature approved the \$2 million appropriation which grew another \$3 million once a budget target was met.

When Garrett arrived at DPS in January 2000, one of the first things he did was push for the establishment of what later that year became the Arizona Public Safety Communications Advisory Committee. This ad hoc committee of volunteers was formed to address the short and long-term interoperable communications needs for all public safety entities within the state.

Since its formation, Felix said that the committee with representatives from various public safety entities in Arizona has met on a quarterly basis. During this process, three subcommittees emerged.

The Technical Subcommittee was responsible for designing the statewide public safety communications network while the Funding Subcommittee had the task of seeking and obtaining additional funding for the statewide network. The Legislative and Community Outreach Subcommittee was responsible for developing information and educational materials to help capture public and legislative support.

One of the first things committee representatives did was meet with Arizona's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. With primary assistance from Sen. John Kyl, R-Ariz., the committee received a \$500,000 federal grant, a portion of which used by DPS to retain the Macro Corporation to conduct a statewide radio interoperability needs assessment.

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## The war on drugs

An equipment violation led to a traffic stop that ruined this motorist's day.

Highway Patrol Officer Mace Craft told the Duty Office that after he stopped a 1994 Toyota on I-40 near Flagstaff July 15, he noticed indications of drug trafficking. The ensuing search produced 10 pounds of methamphetamine which was seized along with the vehicle.

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This traffic stop certainly wasn't a moment of ecstasy for this pair.

While patrolling I-10 about 20 miles east of Benson July 1, Highway Patrol Officer Corey Hanson stopped a vehicle for speeding. During the stop, Hanson conducted a search of the vehicle and found more than 7,000 tablets of Ecstasy which were seized along with \$462 in cash.

After arresting the two suspects, Hanson made arrangements to have the vehicle returned to a car rental agency.

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A traffic stop on I-10 just north of Tucson ended in the arrest of the driver after Highway Patrol Officer David Romero seized 630 pounds of marijuana.

Romero told the Duty Office that he stopped the pickup truck on June 30 for a splash-guard violation. Romero also seized \$930 in U.S. currency before booking the suspect into a Pima County Jail.

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The aroma of marijuana proved to be the downfall for this dope-smuggling suspect.

Highway Patrol Officer Aaron Buckmister said he stopped a car for an equipment violation on S.R. 85 about 15 miles north of Gila Bend. As he approached the vehicle, he detected the odor of marijuana and noticed a bundle of the contraband resting on the rear seat of the 1993 Dodge Intrepid.

After arresting the driver, Buckmister said he found more marijuana inside the trunk. Along with the 317 pounds of marijuana and \$202 he seized, the Highway Patrol officer also impounded the Intrepid during the June 27 traffic stop.

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## Interoperability ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

In this agreement, the Pennsylvania-based engineering consulting firm was to evaluate current and future needs of all public safety and state departments operating in Arizona. Additionally, Macro was to develop at least three system configurations with cost estimates and to recommend a specific statewide emergency voice radio network.

After interviewing 118 public safety agencies in Arizona, Macro provided the committee with two reports which were presented to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in late June. The first report detailed the telecommunication needs of 118 potential participants while the second offered insights into three viable system configurations.

In its evaluation, Macro said there were as many as 200 telecommunications networks functioning within Arizona today with the majority of these systems being designed more than 20 years ago.

"With some exceptions, there were really no significant differences between state, county, city, town, fire district or tribal systems with regard to coverage, reliability, interoperability, age, audio quality or grade of service," the report said.

Continuing, the report said, "Most systems are in the VHF and UHF band and do

not conform to FCC refarming rules. The manufacturer no longer supports a lot of the fixed equipment and spare parts are becoming very scarce. It won't be long before some components or sub systems will not be available, and major retrofit costs are necessary. Spending money to retrofit old systems is unwise and has no long-term value."

In its report, Macro recommended three potential system configurations. The first calls for the deployment of a digital UHF trunked system at a cost of \$277.4 million, the second is a recommendation for a hybrid digital UHF and 700 MHz trunked system at a cost of \$289.5 million, and the final called for a digital 700 MHz trunked system at a cost of \$320 million.

The Macro report said time is of the essence due to the current condition of DPS' microwave network and other fixed infrastructure operated by state, county and local governments. The report also added if the state starts the design process by October, the project could be completed by "mid 2010."

Which will be none too soon.

"The 1950s and 60s technologies and infrastructures used in Arizona were workhorses which fortunately survived well beyond their anticipated life cycles," Felix said. "We need to move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a radio telecommunications interoperability system is a giant formidable step in that direction."

The Yuma Narcotics Squad, assisted by U.S. Customs personnel, arrested two suspects June 25 on various drug-related charges.

During their investigation, DPS Detective Miguel Castillo said investigators seized 718 pounds of marijuana, \$1,000 in cash, a 2000 GMC four-wheel drive truck and a 1997 Jeep Cherokee.

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Teec Nos Pos is not exactly a hot spot for drug smugglers so Highway Patrol Officer Robert Martin was in for a surprise June 24 when he stopped this big rig which resulted in what perhaps is the biggest marijuana bust to take place in the isolated Four Corners area in northeastern Arizona.

Martin said he stopped the tractor-trailer rig for a traffic violation on U.S. 160 near Teec Nos Pos. A subsequent search of the Fruehauf trailer being pulled by a 1998 Volvo tractor/truck revealed nearly 700 pounds of marijuana. Martin also seized \$3,500 in U.S. currency along with the contraband and tractor-trailer.

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The amount of marijuana seized might have been trivial, but not the money.

DPS Sgt. Mark Morlock said officers assigned to the Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA) in Pima County concluded its investigation June 22 with the seizure of \$65,461, 25 pounds of marijuana and a sawed-off shotgun.

The end, however, didn't come without some tense moments as one suspect barricaded himself inside the Tucson residence. A Tucson PD SWAT team was summoned and after several hours of negotiations failed, chemical munitions were deployed forcing the man from the house.

## CNA detectives seize more than 8 tons of marijuana

Two unrelated events – a house fire and an observant "block watch captain" – led detectives assigned to the County Narcotics Alliance (CNA) in Pima County to the seizure of more than 15,000 pounds of marijuana.

Those were just two in a series of marijuana busts initiated by the Alliance that took more than 17,000 pounds of marijuana off the market within a three-week period.

"This year, it seems there has been more marijuana seized down here than anyone in Tucson-area law enforcement can remem-

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## Letters

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**Dear Director Garrett:**

I want to thank the Department of Public Safety for its sacrifice on behalf of the United States of America.

The mobilization of a valued employee to active military duty requires a sacrifice that many employers do not understand. The hardship your department endured in keeping America running without your citizen-soldier exhibits the highest degree of patriotism and makes our nation the greatest in the world.

When challenged by the forces of evil, America responded. As long as our soldiers are trained and ready, we ensure the security of our homes and freedom from tyranny worldwide.

Your department's continued support of citizen-soldiers is vital to this effort.

In my travels throughout our country, many employers tell me how honored they are to support the Guardsmen and Reservists during difficult and challenging times. Any soldier will tell you that this kind of support from the home front is crucial to mission accomplished.

Please understand that DPS' contribution and that the service of your employees has been a key part in the Army's successful fight in the global war on terrorism. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for what DPS does for the Army and our country.

**Larry R. Ellis**  
General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

**Dear Director Garrett:**

I would like to thank a DPS officer for assisting us with a serious injury traffic collision.

On March 21, Officer Bobby Stephenson of the Vehicular Crimes Unit responded to the intersection of 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bell Road to diagram the crash.

The diagram was completed in a professional and timely manner. Without the assistance of Officer Stephenson, the investigation would have been extremely difficult and time consuming.

This type of teamwork is invaluable in law enforcement.

**Chief Daniel Hughes**  
Surprise Police Department

**Dear Director Garrett:**

Thanks to the staff at DPS for making our "Aggressive Driving Awareness Day" a success. As usual, Steve Volden and Frank

Valenzuela were helpful in many ways. A special thanks goes to the DPS officers who took us inside their vehicles on patrol.

**Jim Manley**  
Channel 15 News  
Phoenix

**Dear Director Garrett:**

This letter is in appreciation for the instructional assistance of Officer Frank Valenzuela.

In May, Officer Valenzuela assisted in providing training in the area of media relations to police supervisors for both the Prescott Valley Police Department and allied agencies from Yavapai County.

Officer Valenzuela's presentation skills and overall demeanor exemplified the professionalism we have come to expect from DPS. He was well received by these seasoned supervisory police personnel and the critiques of his instruction were excellent.

It was obvious by everyone that he enjoys what he does and is very good at it.

**Lt. P.J. Janik**  
Prescott Valley P.D.

**Dear Director Garrett:**

I would like to bring to your attention the professional excellence displayed by Officer Corey Hanson on May 19.

About 20 miles from the Arizona-New Mexico state line, my vehicle had a flat tire and I was attempting to change it.

This process for a person in good health is not a problem, but I assure you it was for me.

I have myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disability. Having this disability, the more physical or mental stress I undertake, the weaker my muscles become, including breathing.

I was at the point where I could not go much further without assistance.

Upon Officer Hanson's arrival, it was highly apparent his first priority was to protect human life and property while aiding me in changing this tire.

At all times during my encounter with Officer Hanson, he displayed effective, efficient and citizen-oriented professionalism that reflected extremely well upon DPS.

Thank you Officer Hanson for your support and professionalism. It is a clear reflection of your commitment to protect and serve the people of Arizona.

**Hugh McElroen**  
Phoenix

**Dear Director Garrett:**

On May 31, I received a speeding citation from Sgt. Ed Slechta.

I was pleasantly surprised by this en-

counter. Sgt. Slechta was polite and respectful while at the same time informing us about our violations (my sister also wasn't wearing a seat belt). He answered all my questions thoroughly.

Previously, I have had a low opinion of Tucson-area police officers, finding them to be disrespectful and arrogant. However, I found Sgt. Slechta to be doing a good job educating the public in a totally non-confrontational manner.

I believe in praising people when appropriate and in this case it most definitely is.

**Lois Ramsey**  
Tucson

**Dear Director Garrett:**

I want to let you know how much I appreciated the caring assistance Civilian Reserve Eric Landau provided me.

I was traveling home from Pinetop Memorial day weekend. My horse trailer was loaded with two horses when, just west of Gilbert Road on the Beeline, my trailer had a tire blow out.

This trailer was new to me. When I tried to put the spare tire on, I realized that I had the wrong tire size. Eric stopped and took my damaged wheel in for repairs, then returned it to me.

He was a real lifesaver. Please let him know how much I appreciated his help.

**Chris Rich**  
Phoenix

**Dear Director Garrett:**

I want to praise and thank DPS for employing such fine officers.

While traveling to California from Arizona, my car suddenly lost power. I was moving at the time so I had all my belongings in the back of my truck, like a house stranded on wheels.

There wasn't a towing company in sight and it was about 10 p.m. when Sgt. Michael Palmer, Officer Garold Butler and Officer Joseph Lapre arrived. Sgt. Palmer, out of a mere miracle, used to be a Ford mechanic in the era that my Ford Ranchero was made.

So with a flashlight and help from the other two officers, he lifted the hood and began investigating the problem.

After assessing the problem, we jumped started the truck and he followed behind to ensure that we made it to a local gas station. Once there, my friend, knowing what the problem was, easily fixed the wiring on my battery and I was once again on my way to California.

Had it not been for those three angels, I would have never made it to California and would probably have been set back too far

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Long-time District 4 Sgt. Johnson retires after nearly 32 years

Sgt. Donald "Donnie" Johnson, a Highway Patrol supervisor who periodically served lengthy assignments as acting District 4 commander, retired June 30 after nearly 32 years of service.

Johnson, an Arizona native raised on a farm west of Phoenix, began his career with DPS on Aug. 1, 1972.

His first assignment upon graduation from the law enforcement academy brought him to the Tacna area of District 4.

After some 13 years patrolling highways in the Tacna area, primarily I-8, Johnson was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Kingman area of District 1. In 1987, Johnson returned to the Wellton area in District 4 where he was stationed until his retirement.

During his time as a Highway Patrol officer in District 4, Johnson was instrumental in establishing a firearms training program. Johnson was also selected as one of the district's first field training officers based on his professionalism and strong interpersonal skills.

Following his promotion to sergeant, Johnson continued serving as a district firearms instructor and also accepted several additional responsibilities, including a "squad leader" position with the area Civil Emergency Task Force (CETF).

On several occasions during his career, Johnson also served assignments as the acting District 4 commander.

Johnson, an avid fisherman, said he truly enjoyed his job at DPS because his various duties with the agency were so diverse.

"Because the job of a Highway Patrol supervisor and officer entails so many different responsibilities, I feel as if I had thousands of great, exciting experiences that would not have been possible had I pursued a more traditional line of work," Johnson said. "I truly enjoyed the freedom, independence, and outdoor elements of my job with the Highway Patrol. I really enjoyed not being behind a desk all day."

Because he had so many rewarding experiences during his 31 years at DPS, Johnson said he has a difficult time trying to determine which few years of his career he would consider the "very best".

However, one thing he is certain about is that he achieved tremendous happiness at work by rooting for the success and career advancement of other officers, especially those who began their careers in the remote areas of District 4.

"Every time an officer who started his or her career in the remote areas of District 4 was promoted or honored by DPS, I received a tremendous thrill," Johnson said. "Offic-

ers who have served together in the remote areas of District 4, especially areas like Tacna, Wellton and Dateland, seem to share a tremendous sense of camaraderie."

Johnson is no stranger to work-related honors or success himself. During his DPS career, he received a variety of service honors, including a Lifesaving Award for pulling an injured man from a burning train.

Johnson also participated in his share of hair-raising moments while "working the road" and while assigned to other special details for DPS.

Johnson said the most intense, exciting moments of his law enforcement career took place in the early 1980s when he was assigned, along with hundreds of other DPS officers, to help maintain law and order in Morenci during the copper workers' strike.

Another very intense period during Johnson's career occurred in the summer of 1978 during the massive search for the Tison Gang which remains the largest manhunt in Arizona history.

"The manhunt for the Tison Gang was extremely intense and everyone, law enforcement officers and especially the public, was on edge," said Johnson, adding that the notorious "gang" murdered a family and their babysitter not too far from his home.

Johnson said he first thought about pursuing a career in law enforcement when he was in his mid-20s and employed at a machine shop in the Tolleson area. It was then that Johnson met a part-time welder at the facility named Jerry Dodd whose day job was that of a Highway Patrol officer.

Dodd and Johnson became good friends and, over a period of time, Dodd convinced Johnson to pursue a career as a Highway Patrol officer which would be rewarding as well as offering a good retirement package and other benefits.

After a "ride-along" with Dodd and realizing he would enjoy the work a Highway Patrol officer does, Johnson focused on becoming a patrolman, never looking back.

Now, more than 30 years later, Johnson is looking forward to a new stage in his life, one he said will involve spending much more time with his wife and family. In fact, Johnson said he has no set retirement plans other than enjoying time with his wife and doing much more hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren.

Johnson and his wife, Kathy, have been married more than 39 years. The couple has three adult children and two grandchildren. Two additional grandchildren are on the way.

In the end, all of the grandchildren are going to keep their newly-retired "grandpa"

extremely busy and happy, especially with all of the fishing lessons he will gladly dole out to his new angling buddies.

As he embarks on this new stage in his life, Johnson said he is not too concerned about missing his job with DPS. He is concerned, however, about missing the people with whom he has worked.

"There are some very great people who work for DPS and I will truly miss them in retirement," Johnson said. "It will probably be the simple things I will miss like not sharing small conversations with people at work and not seeing the faces of co-workers every day."

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### A job well done

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#### Commander (Gary) Hughes:

I would like to thank Jim Jertson of the *Digest* for his help and assistance on numerous occasions.

Jim took time from his busy schedule to take group photos of CJSD staff. On other occasions, I have asked him at moment's notice to take photos at award ceremonies and celebrations held by our Division and he has never hesitated to do this. I have also requested copies of annual reports and old copies of the *Digest* and Jim has always displayed a professional attitude going out of his way to accommodate these requests.

I enjoy working with Jim and truly appreciate his customer-service attitude.

**Estella Cervantes**

**Executive Assistant, CJSD**



DPS Publications Specialist Jim Jertson grimaces as an electrical signal from a Taser overrides his motor nervous system forcing him to lose neuromuscular control of his body.



## Frank Cuen one of 8 civilian reserves working Tucson area

*This article, written by Tim Ellis, is reprinted with permission of The Arizona Daily Star.*

They help keep watch over the long, lonely stretches of highway for motorists in need of help.

They direct traffic around wrecks, remove debris from the roadway and slap those bright orange stickers onto broken-down vehicles on the side of the road.

And they notify Highway Patrol officers about unsafe or illegal activity they see while on the road.

They do all these things and more free - they're volunteer members of the Department of Public Safety Civilian Reserve program.

Frank Cuen, a Tucson native, is one of eight who serve in District 8, which encompasses Pima and Santa Cruz counties.

Cuen (pronounced "Quinn"), 53, has been a civilian reservist since 1994 because, he said, "I enjoy helping the community, the public. And if I can make the community safer, that's why I'm here."

At least once a week, he spends an eight-hour shift cruising Interstate 10 and other major highways in District 8, looking for people in trouble.

Motorists who have broken down on the side of the highway invariably are happy to see a Civilian Reserves vehicle roll up behind them.

DPS Highway Patrol officers also greatly appreciate the reserve volunteers.

"They're amazing," said Officer Debbie Morrett, a District 8 officer.

"They help tremendously when they are out there. I know when I was a patrol officer, when I heard Frank's voice on the radio I knew I could catch up on paperwork because he was out there."

And they're very helpful in the field, said Officer Felipe Solis, a Nogales-based patrolman. "At collision scenes, they are the biggest help."

Tony Bruhn, a commercial-vehicle enforcement officer who also works out of Nogales, said the reserve volunteers "are like supplemental officers."

"We can count on these guys to help out with anything, without pulling an officer off the road," said Bruhn, a 19-year veteran of DPS. "They're definitely an asset."

Sgt. Jeff Trapp, a former statewide supervisor of civilian reserves who works out of the Phoenix-area Central Patrol Bureau, said the program "saves the state a lot of money. They're doing work for free that otherwise would be tying up an officer."

The program began in Tucson in the early 1980s and spread statewide, Morrett said.



FRANK CUEN

Cuen said that's because then, as now, there just weren't enough officers in the field to respond to every call for assistance, in addition to regular patrols and more urgent calls. Last fiscal year, there were 31 civilian reserve officers statewide.

It's a tough job, Cuen said. On some days it's so busy that he won't notice when his eight hours are up - and he'll often work longer. On other days, his rounds may be no more eventful than a few routine stops to pick up debris from the roadway and slap orange stickers on broken-down cars by the side of the road.

"It teaches you a lot of discipline," he said. "There's a lot of decision-making. You may be the first on the scene (of an accident), and you may have to call in for help, give first aid, start directing traffic."

Civilian reserves must undergo much of the same training as certified officers. They also must pass various written tests on procedures and the law, a background investigation and physical fitness, psychological and polygraph exams, among other things.

All that's OK with Cuen - he wants to become a patrolman, and eventually a commercial-vehicle enforcement officer.

It would be a second, or even third, career for him: He retired last year after 29 years working for the city of Tucson. During that time, he served with the Arizona National Guard and the Army Reserve as a military police officer, an artilleryman and an instructor in the operation and maintenance of vehicles. All of that is good experience for a DPS civilian reserve officer.

He also knows the territory: He was born and raised in Tucson, graduating from Tucson High School in 1969. Cuen's fluency in Spanish helps him communicate easily with

motorists who speak only that language.

On a recent weekday afternoon, he asked a man from Sonora whose pickup was broken down on I-19 just north of Nogales whether he needed a wrecker or could he fix the problem. The man at first seemed inclined to wait for a wrecker but evidently changed his mind after Cuen suggested it would cost at least \$100. The man's pickup was later seen northbound, headed to Tucson.

Although the reservists wear DPS uniforms, theirs differ from a patrol officer's - reservists wear a beige polo shirt with DPS insignia and dark-blue cargo pants. They are not authorized to arrest or participate in pursuit of suspects. But they can keep an eye out for trouble and use their radios to let DPS sworn officers know about it.

Like the time about five years ago when Cuen rolled up behind a vehicle that had broken down on Interstate 10 near the Pima-Cochise county line.

When he called in to inform the District 8 dispatcher of his location and activity, he relayed the vehicle's license plate number for a routine check - and was told the vehicle was stolen.

With an officer dispatched to the location, "I just excused myself from the situation and told him I had another call that I had to respond to, and that a wrecker was on the way to help."

"I backed away, got into my truck and left. I drove just out of sight and stopped, and just kept an eye on him until the officer arrived," he said.

Cuen said it's far more common for him to use his radio to alert DPS officers about speeders or other varieties of law-breakers.

Cuen's rounds generally begin with a trip east on I-10 to the county line and back, then south on I-19 to Nogales and back. If there's time, he'll head south on Arizona 83 to the Sonoita area, or west on Arizona 86 toward Ajo. "When I'm busy, I stay on I-10 and I-19," he said.

Cuen said he fixes tires - and also teaches people how to change their tires. For those who need it, he'll fix busted hoses, and he carries coolant to refill a radiator. He used to carry a gas can but doesn't anymore because of the agency's concern about carrying flammable liquids. So now, if there's time, he'll give people a ride to the nearest gas station, or parts store, and back.

He also carries an assortment of tools and supplies, including jumper cables, flares and pylons.

If a motorist's vehicle is in need of major

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## Pot fire ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ber," said DPS Sgt. Mark Morlock, CNA commander. "Theories abound as to why – from good police work to an unanticipated surplus to just plain luck."

Luck and an electrical short certainly played roles in the seizure of 14,463 pounds of marijuana found in two residences in Marana.

After firefighters from the Northwest Fire Department in Marana arrived at a house fire June 19, they noticed what appeared to be numerous bales of marijuana crammed throughout the burning house.

The firefighters promptly informed Marana police officers about their suspicions.

As part of a protective sweep of the area, the officers then approached a residence some 150 yards to the rear of the burning structure.

As they arrived at the second residence, their suspicions were further heightened when they saw several people run out the back door into the desert. A cursory look inside produced more evidence of a major marijuana-smuggling operation and prompted Marana police officers to contact the CNA.

When CNA detectives arrived, there was no doubt that this house fire, possibly the result of an electrical short, had just sent a major marijuana operation up in smoke. Little time was wasted in obtaining a search warrant for both structures.

"Although much of the marijuana in the first house was fire- and smoke-damaged, you could still see that the marijuana was stacked in bales from ceiling to floor, wall to wall," Morlock said. "In my 25 years with DPS, I have never seen so much marijuana in one place."

After obtaining search warrants, it didn't take long for the detectives to tie the two homes together as part of a large marijuana-smuggling operation, Morlock said, adding that the two houses were recently purchased by the same individual and then rented.

"It was an absolute factory," the DPS sergeant said.

"The first home was filled with marijuana. The other home had tables set up to facilitate the repackaging and weighing of the marijuana.

"Once this was done, they used a van, which also burned in the fire, to transport the marijuana from house to house. These were rather nice homes. The house that burned was worth more than \$400,000 while the smaller home out back was valued at more than \$200,000."

Morlock said once the fire was extinguished, it took nine CNA detectives some 14 hours to load the cannabis onto a couple of trucks and transport it to a DEA warehouse where it was inventoried.

"At the house, we had an assembly line going, similar to a water brigade," Morlock explained.

"We had the fire department remove the windows and we backed the trucks up as close as possible to the window. We formed a line from bedroom to truck and just passed the bundles down, out the window and into the truck."

Once the marijuana was weighed and inventoried, most of it was burned at a Tucson site equipped to complete such a chore.

"It took us two days to burn what already hadn't been burned," Morlock said.

Morlock said the marijuana carried a Tucson wholesale value of \$6.5 million.

"If sold on the streets in the Midwest or East Coast, it would net at least \$14 million," the CNA commander commented.

He said no arrests have been made, but added that the Pima County Sheriff's Office is investigating an execution-style homicide of a Nogales man whose body was found near the two residences.

"They are looking into the possibility of a connection between the marijuana and homicide," Morlock said.

Luck played a major role in a second substantial marijuana seizure that also occurred June 28 at another Marana location.

Morlock said this case, involving a home invasion, was unrelated to the first.

"We believe that there was some 3,000 pounds of marijuana stashed at this house when it was raided by other drug smugglers," Morlock said.

"The suspects went in and abducted the 'mule,' stole his van and took off with some 1,600 pounds of marijuana.

"They then came back in their personal cars, loaded them and drove down the street to a dead end where they drove off into the desert in search of private staging area.

"While they were unloading their vehicles, a neighborhood block watch 'captain' called 9-1-1 to complain about illegal dumping.

"He had no idea that the litter was marijuana. Marana police showed up, made the stop and called us. The rest is history."

Morlock said his investigators also assisted in a 1,900-pound marijuana bust conducted by Tucson DPS Narcotics July 16 along with various other smaller busts and played a principal role June 29 in the confiscation of 984 pounds of marijuana.

## Letters ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

financially.

They were my miracle.

**Faith Sherrill**  
**Long Beach**

**Dear Director Garrett:**

During the 2003-04 school year, Officer Eric Anspach functioned as the class advisor to GCC Academy Class 49. This position is voluntary and not an easy task.

The class met twice weekly and all day Sunday for 10 months, a tremendous strain to someone also working normal hours.

The class graduated with full peace-officer certification. Officer Anspach was continuously there for the cadets, assisting, tutoring, supervising and even running with them during physical training.

The cadets held Officer Anspach in high regard and as you are aware, that is a sure indication of a successful and competent supervisor.

Being class advisor also required the supervision of three recruit training officers. Officer Anspach handled these duties in an exemplary manner and also gained the respect of these officers from other local agencies.

In short, Officer Anspach was an effective supervisor and an outstanding representative of DPS.

My sincere appreciation to you for allowing Eric to function in this capacity. Without such support, the Academy would not have attained the high success rate it enjoys.

**Jerry McCown**  
**Law Enforcement Operations**  
**Glendale Community College**

**Dear Sgt. (Ken) Summers:**

Thank you for your wonderful gift of coloring books, crayons and rulers to the Ocotillo students. I shared the supplies with other teachers. The kindergartners were especially thrilled with the crayons.

By the middle of each school year, most of the crayons we have are broken and some are missing, so it was refreshing for them to receive some new ones. The informative book was used to teach about gangs, something the upper grades found useful, especially in today's society.

Thank you for supporting our Ocotillo students. Your donation of supplies were welcomed and appreciated.

**Ana Ramirez**  
**Ocotillo Elementary School**  
**Tucson**

## Inside DPS

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Griffith, Todd A., 510, Scientific Analysis Superintendent

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Cencelewski, Robert A., 2578, Sergeant

Cianciolo, Phillip M., 2579, Officer

Holbert, Donald R., 2584, Officer

Kennedy, Ray A., 2588, Sergeant

Lehar, Michael F., 2592, Officer

Nauman, Bruce D., 2595, Officer

Nyhart, Dean S., 2597, Lieutenant

Parks, Larry P., 2598, Sergeant

Schrank, Ronald L., 2604, Officer

Torres, Gregory, 2607, Officer

Trapp, Jeffrey S., 2608, Sergeant

Wander, David S., 2610, Sergeant

Wells, Danny L., 2611, Lieutenant

Wood, Kevin C., 2613, Sergeant

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Adams, John A., 3437, Officer

Anthony, John W., 3430, Officer

Arnett, David J., 3465, Officer

Arthur, W.R. (Randy), 3439, Sergeant

Blunk, D.C. (Del), 3440, Lieutenant

Bowlby, Marty R., 3441, Officer

Cahoon, Robert M., 3442, Sergeant

Davis, Eddy R., 3444, Sergeant

Eads, Raymond S., 3470, Sergeant

Evers, Randy D., 3446, Officer

Farrar, Brett A., 3447, Sergeant

Howard, Debra L., 3448, Lieutenant

Kleinman, David R., 3450, Officer

Logue, Joseph L., 3472, Officer

Martinez, Ritchie A., 3416, Criminal Analyst Supervisor

Mitchell, Jeff S., 3473, Officer

Morlock, Mark W., 3429, Sergeant

Peterson, Carl J., 3454, Officer

Samon, Richard D., 3435, Officer

Simpson, Edward N., 3457, Officer

Stanhope, Jeffery A., 3460, Lieutenant

Watling, Jack H., 3462, Sergeant

### RETIRED

Cramer, William R., 1977, Sergeant, 27 years

Rall, Carol A., 4327, Administrative Manager, 14 years

Sullivan, Mary E., 3379, Computer Programmer Analyst, 21 years

### NEW EMPLOYEES

Andersen, Greg G., 6394, Cadet Officer

Anema, Scott F., 6384, Cadet Officer

Benton, Hector R., 6385, Cadet Officer

Byrne, Richard J., 6386, Cadet Officer

Cochran, W. Brian, 6388, Cadet Officer

Colon, Monica J., 6381, Human Resources Assistant

Figueroa, Juan C., 6397, Officer

Gilbert, Robert, 6398, Officer

Harold, Tiffany A., 6393, Cadet Officer

Lunt, William G., 6389, Cadet Officer

McSpadden, Eric C., 6390, Cadet Officer

Norton, Kenneth R., 6396, Cadet Officer

Sortor, Daniel R., 6400, Cadet Officer

Thompson, Dallas W., 6399, Cadet Officer

Valdez, Rogelio J., 6383, Telecommunications Engineer I

Weidenback, Cameron B., 6395, Cadet Officer

Wilkes, Robert E., 6392, Cadet Officer

### DEPARTURES

Ceci, Valentino R., 6387, Cadet Officer

Compton, Beth E., 5887, Police Communications Dispatcher

Dobras, Milan, 4920, Telecommunications Engineer III

Means, Steve J., 6319, Officer

Plotts, Jory D., 6391, Cadet Officer

### BIRTHS

Alexis Lisa Norlin – 8 lbs., 2 oz., 20½ inches. Born July 12 at Banner Thunderbird Hospital, Glendale, to Officer Steve Norlin and wife, Lisa. Steve is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to HP Metro Central.

### OBITUARIES

Christina Quezada, 78, passed away on July 4. She was the mother of Detective Ben Quezada who is assigned to the Special Operations Unit, Phoenix.

Michael Garrett, 68, passed away on June 21 in Baltimore. He was the brother of Director Dennis Garrett.

## Lt. Mark Brown receives COPS' top posthumous award

The Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed by Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), was awarded posthumously to DPS Lt. Mark Brown who died Jan. 15 from complications associated with a rare form of heart disease.

The COPS top award recognizes an active or retired law enforcement officer/official for services beyond the call of duty when addressing police survivor issues.

“While Lt. Brown served on the COPS national board from May 2002 until his death, this award was given for his dedicated service to law enforcement families and survivors in Arizona,” said Linda Soubrious, COPS national president.

Soubrious said Brown, a 30-year DPS veteran and commander of the Department’s motorcycle district at the time of his death, was the leading force behind the DPS Family Support Group and was responsible for the rebirth of the Arizona chapter of COPS.

Brown’s wife, Diana, accepted the award last June in Camdenton, Mo.

“Lt. Brown did so much for so many, but never took credit for anything,” Soubrious said. “His work with the Family Support Group helped the organization develop viable services to DPS employees. He served as the family liaison officer for several surviving families and assisted or trained others to take on this difficult task.

“Lt. Brown developed the Critical Incident Stress Management/Debriefing Team at DPS and was an active member of the 100 Club in Phoenix. He helped with any task that would assist others and promote a positive image for law enforcement officers.”

COPS officials said he was the eighth recipient of the award.

COPS is a nationwide non-profit organization that provides resources to assist families of fallen law enforcement officers.





### Who Is She?

She had a confident smile during her schools days in the 1950s and it hasn't left today even though it's rarely seen in Tucson or Phoenix. Who is she?

Identify this civilian employee correctly and you will be eligible to win a polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge number 3131. Internet entries should be sent to [acoughanour@dps.state.az.us](mailto:acoughanour@dps.state.az.us). Interdepartmental mail should go to The Digest, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

### June Winner

Five people correctly identified the little girl in the June Digest as Officer Bernadette Koren or the little boy as Lt. Jack Hegarty. The picture was taken when their fathers, Paul Koren and Hugh Hegarty, were Highway Patrol officers in Northern Arizona. By virtue of a drawing, the shirt went to Payroll Specialist Anita Schantz, her third win since the contest first appeared in January 2001.

## DPS officers bag 225 pounds of coke, including 144 pounds in single bust

It was a productive six days for DPS officers and a not so profitable experience for these suspected cocaine smugglers.

From June 28 through July 3, DPS officers initiated five cocaine-related busts which led to the seizure of 225 pounds of the illegal substance.

The biggest of the five busts occurred June 30 during a traffic stop near Flagstaff.

That incident near Flagstaff led officers to 144 pounds of cocaine, possibly the largest such haul of cocaine in the Flagstaff area, and to the arrest of the driver and his passenger. DPS Sgt. Rod Wigman told area media that the cocaine carried a street value of at least \$6.5 million.

That bust was originated by Canine Officer John Adams who stopped an eastbound 1998 Ford Expedition for speeding about five miles east of Flagstaff. During the contact, Adams asked and received permission to search the sports utility vehicle (SUV).

During the inspection, Wigman said Adams noticed that a fuel tank had been tampered with so it was taken to district headquarters. Inside the tank, Wigman said investigators found 115 pounds of cocaine.

During the search, Wigman said investigators also noticed fresh screws in the right front fender area of the SUV. After a canine alerted on the area, the officers removed the fender and found a hidden compartment containing another 29 pounds of the drug.

Wigman said the cocaine, destined for Oklahoma, was picked up in Los Angeles.

Also, on June 30, narcotics officers in Tucson, were called upon to inspect a suspicious-looking package. After a canine alerted to the package, a search warrant was obtained. Once opened, the package produced 30 pounds of cocaine.

Highway Patrol Officer Mike Cota and Canine Officer Chris Hemmen combined their efforts to take another 30 pounds of cocaine off the streets along with 2.5 pounds of heroin.

This bust began with a mid-morning traffic stop July 2 on I-10 near Tonopah. After finding the contraband, the officers seized a 1993 Ford sedan and arrested its three occupants.

Later that day, a Tucson Highway Patrol officer discovered 16 pounds of cocaine inside a tool box he found inside an abandoned vehicle. Sgt. Jeff Lane said the drug was found during inventory of the vehicle prior to towing.

Canine Officer Louis Torres told the Duty Office that he located five pounds of cocaine

during a June 28 traffic stop on I-10 near Casa Grande. Torres said he used his canine, Alex, to find the drugs during the late-afternoon incident. He arrested the two occupants of the vehicle and arranged for the vehicle to be returned to the rental company.

## Cochise County jury indicts man for assault on DPS patrol officer

A Coconino County grand jury on July 16 indicted Gabriel Octavio Estrada, 21, of Tucson, for aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, felony flight and endangerment.

The indictment stems from a July 11 pursuit in which Estrada rammed a patrol car driven by Highway Patrol Officer Robert Flannery. Flannery suffered minor injuries during the incident when he was brushed by the fleeing vehicle while attempting to deploy tire spikes.

Investigators said Flannery was able to fire a round from his shotgun at the Ford truck, reportedly stolen and being driven by Estrada. No one was wounded by the gunfire.

The incident began on U.S. 191 near Douglas when Highway Patrol Officer Jeffrey Richardson tried to stop the vehicle for speeding. After stopping, the truck fled with the chase ending some 85 miles later on I-10 near Benson.

At one point, officers said the truck was transporting at least 15 illegal immigrants. Twice during the chase, the truck stopped alongside the highway to allow some occupants to jump and run, said Officer Frank Valenzuela of DPS Media Relations.

The pursuit came to an end when the truck went off the road before coming to a stop. When it stopped, the driver and remaining occupants fled on foot. Estrada and two of the occupants were taken into custody following a short foot pursuit.

## President signs gun law

President George W. Bush signed the "Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act" into law during ceremonies July 19 in Washington, D.C.

The legislation, passed by the House in June and by the Senate in early July, exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from state and local prohibitions with respect to the carrying of concealed weapons.

## Hansen ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

port where ships would come and unload rockets, bombs, ammo and other supplies," Hansen said.

Hansen's 1991 military deployment in Saudi Arabia was cut short because of a shoulder injury that eventually required surgery.

"While in Saudi during Desert Storm, our lieutenant decided we needed a little PT (physical training) so he organized a football game, full contact without pads," Hansen explained. "I got hurt and the result was that I was flown to Germany for reconstructive surgery on my shoulder. Just one of those crazy things, you go to war and get hurt playing football."

Football wasn't on the agenda for Hansen's most recent trip to the Middle East.

"We were in the Iraqi theater for 12 months," Hansen said. "First, we arrived in Kuwait and, a week later, we entered Iraq. We were in Iraq all except two or three weeks when we returned to Kuwait for supplies and equipment. Then at the end, we spent our final week in Kuwait before returning to the states."

Hansen, a sergeant first class with the Guard, said his platoon moved around quite a bit seeing a country whose terrain is much like the southern half of Arizona – plenty of desert with some rich, green river valleys.

"At first, we were assigned to a location in far west Iraq where we opened up our first Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) camp," the DPS officer said. "After setting it up, it was decided that we were too far west. That's when they moved us closer to the action so that transport of prisoners wouldn't take so long."

That was the beginning of what appeared to be a game of "Iraqi Hop Scotch" for Hansen and the 30 soldiers under his command.

Shortly after completing this move, they were ordered to an area southwest of Baghdad. This was followed by an assignment that brought Hansen and crew closer to Kuwait where they transferred EPW's to a larger camp. Then it was into Kuwait for equipment before a return trip to Iraq to an area north of Baghdad.

"Then we worked in the proximity of two or three different cities, depending on what platoon we were assigned to," Hansen said. "We finished the summer in Fallujah where we did several raids on homes and markets."

It was during these travels that Hansen and fellow MP's moved prisoners of war to the Abu Ghraib prison which gained considerable notoriety in recent months for alleged

mistreatment of prisoners.

"We never worked inside the prison which was quite large and was used by Saddam Hussein to incarcerate and torture his political enemies," Hansen said.

A major challenge faced by the Arizona soldiers came during the summer. For those who think it's hot in Tucson, Phoenix or Yuma during June, July and August, think again. A summer vacation in the Arizona desert would provide welcome respite from the summer heat U.S. troops endure in Iraq.

"The worst daytime temperature I remember was 146," Hansen related. "I know there were some temperature readings on the flight lines that topped 160."

"Outside the perimeter, we wore desert-camouflaged uniforms with the sleeves down in an effort to keep the sand and sun off. We also wore body armor in the heat of the summer. Dehydration and kidney stones were a big problem for many soldiers."

To remain relatively hydrated, Hansen said he often volunteered to be a "stick dummy" for medical personnel dubbed "combat lifesavers."

"I took several IVs so that the 'combat lifesavers' would have someone to practice on," the DPS officer revealed. "I told them to 'stick' me anytime. I'd rather have them practice on me than try to learn the procedure while in the field under some very different circumstances."

Hansen mostly worked nights so that he wasn't regularly exposed to the brutal daytime heat.

"Although at times nighttime temperatures remained in the hundreds, you didn't have the sun beating on you," he said.

Hansen, a 16-year veteran with the Guard who has 11 years with DPS, said it didn't matter where you were in Iraq, it was uncomfortable during the summer.

"Forget about 'wetting down the sheets' in an effort to cool off," Hansen said. "Before long, dry sheets would be drenched in sweat. I had an air mattress with buttons and those pockets would become pools of sweat. It was just horrible, but you learn to cope because you really didn't have a choice."

"I personally hate the heat, but my wife likes it. She told me after this experience, I could never complain about the heat in Phoenix. Sorry, I still don't like the heat whether it's here or in Iraq."

Because of constant sweating, Hansen said showers were needed in order to "knock the stink down."

But, upon first arriving in Iraq, the luxury of a shower was not available. In fact, it took 38 days before the "supply train" made showers available to the 855th.

"Some of us, I imagine, began to smell



### News from home

Occasionally, D.J. Hansen and other DPS officers assigned to the Arizona National Guard in Iraq would receive a copy of the *Digest* which allowed them to stay somewhat abreast of what was going on back home. (Photo by Paul Etnire)

pretty bad," the Seattle native smiled.

But Hansen learned to improvise in order to maintain a somewhat approachable bodily hygiene.

"Each day we received a certain amount of drinking water, normally two or three 1.5-liter bottles," said Hansen, who during his younger days spent a year in Italy to fulfill his mission with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS).

"Some would take a swig or drink a little bit and set the bottle down. The sun, of course, would heat the bottled water, so they would just leave it. After a few hours, I would pick the almost full bottle up and ask whose water it was. If no one answered, I would take it and store it until I had seven or eight bottles. That's what I washed with."

"However, the water sometimes was so hot you almost didn't want to use it. In the winter, we couldn't get enough hot water."

Hansen said the biggest disappointments early on was the shortage of supplies and equipment.

"When we got there, we were supposed to have tents, but the tents didn't arrive with us," Hansen said. "Trying to get a hot meal was impossible for the first few months. We were told there would be supplies upon our arrival, but they weren't there. When we first arrived, there were many nights sleeping on the sand under the stars or trying to sleep in the heat and dust with flies crawling all over you and spiders around you. It was rough."

Hansen commented that as a sergeant in

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## Hansen ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

charge of 30 soldiers, private moments were rare and down time almost non-existent.

Heat and living conditions weren't the only aggravations that captured the attention of those deployed in Iraq. There were also firefights and the constant threats of chemical warfare.

"Many of us were involved in various firefights, some minor, some very intense," Hansen said. "One patrol I was on one night was ambushed. A vehicle behind the one I was in took a pretty good hit. Although there was considerable sniper fire, I never felt like I was in somebody's cross hairs. I guess I am the eternal optimist in that I never really worried about the dangers we were facing."

"Occasionally, we were subjected to mortar and missile attacks, but I never thought we were in constant peril, thinking we were going to die at any given moment. Maybe my police experience played a role in my confidence. But, more than likely, it was my faith in a higher being."

Getting shot at obviously is dangerous, Hansen admitted, but there were other concerns like SCUD missiles which could carry a potential payload of toxic lethal chemicals. American servicemen also had to be concerned with improvised explosive devices, land mines and other small gadgets capable of considerable destruction and bodily harm.

"I think the threat of chemical weapons was probably the thing that scared us the most, especially when we first got there," the DPS officer commented. "Later, chemical warfare wasn't much of a concern."

"Although weapons of mass destruction haven't been found in Iraq, there's no doubt that Saddam Hussein at one time had such weapons. Whether he shipped them off to friendly countries or they are simply buried somewhere in Iraq, no one seems to know."

As for the Iraqi people, Hansen said it seemed like everyone owned a gun and during celebrations it was fashionable for the locals to point the weapon in the air and squeeze the trigger with no apparent knowledge pertaining to the laws of gravity.

"The Coalition Provisional Authority actually authorizes each Iraqi to have at least one weapon in the home," Hansen explained. "It can't be anything larger than an AK-47. But if you are an Iraqi, you can legally have a fully-automatic AK-47 in your home."

"You heard shots all the time. You could be in a city working with local police and hear automatic gunfire and want to investigate, but the police would tell you not to worry because, most likely, it was just part of a wedding celebration. I don't know if

celebrating with guns in Iraq will ever change because it seems to be a part of the Iraqi culture."

While in Iraq, Hansen visited a few of Saddam's palaces which he says were simply amazing.

"One palace had an artificial tree with a trunk made from gold highlighted by crystal chandelier-type leaves," Hansen said. "It was 12- to 15-foot high with beautiful wood work. All bathroom fixtures were made from gold. Every floor, ceiling and wall was marble."

"I also went to a hospital in Baghdad for some x-rays. The x-ray room had top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art equipment. It was really nice. I was told that this was Saddam's private x-ray room. The rest of the hospital was quite standard."

In Iraq, Hansen said there was a "huge" economic disparity between the "haves" and the "have nots."

"When I first arrived in Iraq, I really felt sorry for the people," Hansen said. "Many were living in mud or straw huts. Then you would see the homes of Saddam's friends and supporters. You have poverty in Mexico but not like this."

"Depending on which day it was, the people could be really nice and would act like they wanted us to be there. On other days, they would be yelling at you. It just seemed to depend on what their clerics were preaching that day."

"I could never trust any Iraqi to the point that it wouldn't bother me to have one standing next to me with a weapon. Some Iraqis appeared to be very nice people, but I just couldn't feel comfortable around them."

"But knowing that we were able to help them is satisfying. They may be the ones who are fighting us today, but at least we freed them from the oppression of Saddam."

Hansen said the trip home was quite different from when he returned from Saudi Arabia some 13 years ago.

"When the plane lifted off from Saudi 13 years ago, there was a collective cheer," the Phoenix-based investigator said. "But when we left Kuwait for the states, it was much more subdued. When we landed at the Bangor, Maine, airport, I really expected an explosion of cheers, but that didn't happen. I don't know if everybody was wiped out from the long flight or what. But for me, it was a really good feeling to be back."

Hansen said when the troops landed in Bangor, a sizeable greeting party awaited.

"It was nice to see friendly faces, people who wanted to see us," said Hansen who has been married 14 years and has three children. "They had cell phones for us so that we could call our spouses, our relatives, our friends. They all made it a point to shake our

hands."

After a brief stopover in Maine, it was on to Fort Bliss, Texas, near El Paso, where they stayed for about a week until boarding several buses for Phoenix, the final leg of a 14-month journey away from home.

At the Arizona National Guard facility in Phoenix, several hundred people welcomed the soldiers home with hugs, kisses, apple pie and hot dogs.

"I think the 855th MP Company served its country well," Hansen reflected. "We did every job we were asked to do, the best we could do it and everything was done in an honorable way. Best of all, I didn't suffer any injuries over there. I was lucky."

## D.J. Hansen quite appreciative of support back home

Being away from home 14 months is tough on any family, especially if the loved one is involved in a war thousands of miles from home.

But for DPS Officer D.J. Hansen and many others serving their country, their extended tour in Iraq was made much easier thanks to the support of family, church and fellow employees.

For Suzi Hansen, it was an experience that she has gone through at least three times as she has witnessed the activation of her husband's Arizona National Guard unit on three separate occasions during their 14 years of marriage.

It began in 1991 when D.J. went to Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm. The second time came in 1994 when the 855th MP Company of the Arizona National Guard was sent to Fort Polk, La., to backfill the MPs who were sent to Haiti during a rebel uprising there. Such military separations don't include the time Hansen spent in Honduras, South Korea and other locations as part of his annual two-week summer training exercises with the Guard.

"I can't thank my wife enough," Hansen said. "She's been through this at least three times and each time it probably has been more difficult. The first time we didn't have any children. The second time, we had only had one child, but when I left for Iraq, she was left to take care of our three children - Cayla, 12; Joshua, 6, and Seth 2."

When Hansen left for Iraq, Seth wasn't even a year old.

"Dealing with three children and keeping them happy and confident that I would

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## Support ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

return safely had to be very difficult," the DPS officer commented. "She made sure Seth knew who I was by hanging pictures of me throughout the house. Every time I called home, she made sure Seth heard my voice."

Hansen said his ward in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and his in-laws also provided considerable support for his family, making sure that spiritual and family needs were attended to in appropriate fashion.

"The guys I work with at Vehicular Crimes

## Charbonneau ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

thority on General Orders issues.

Mrs. Charbonneau also was recognized for her work with the International Association of Law Enforcement Planners. A certified advanced law enforcement planner, Mrs. Charbonneau earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Karl, two children, Ryan and Sara, and two grandchildren, Kayleigh and Nicholas. Also surviving are her parents, a brother, and a sister.

The family requests donations to your charity of choice or to the ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome) Support Center, 7172 Regional Street, #278, Dublin, CA 94568.

## Reserve civilian Vincent Farrell dies

Vincent P. Farrell, 73, a civilian reserve with the Department since 1999, passed away July 7 in Phoenix.

Mr. Farrell, an ordained minister who as a teenager was a ballroom dance instructor, was assigned to the Highway Patrol's District 12 office in Prescott. He was a member of the DPS civilian reserves squad in Prescott which received a Director's Unit Citation from Director Joe Albo in April 1999.

Besides DPS, he also was a volunteer with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

A graduate of Southern Illinois University, the Korean War naval veteran worked extensively with physically- and mentally-challenged adults and children.

He is survived by two sons, a daughter, 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The family requests donations to the charity of choice.

also were tremendous," Hansen said. "They visited my wife at Christmas and gave her a \$350 gift certificate. They fixed things around the house and completed some projects I had going in the back yard.

"It was really nice knowing that I have church, family and work supporting me. Suzi could call on any of these people and the support would be there without hesitation."

Hansen said his absence from home was also made a little easier thanks to today's technology.

"At first, I got to call home about once a month, but as logistics improved, I could call about twice a week," Hansen said. "Towards the end, I could get on the Internet and e-mail home. There also were some at DPS who made sure I received updates about the Department whether it was through regular mail or the Internet. That made life a bit easier.

"I am very appreciative and thankful for the support I received. I'm also certain that others in the Department who have served or are serving have received or are receiving similar support. That speaks volumes for the Department."



### Family time

D.J. Hansen relaxes during a lunch in his honor with wife Suzi and son Seth.

## Coronary claims retired Lt. Bill Rogers

Lt. Bill Rogers, 56, who retired from DPS in 1990 after 20 years of service, died June 30 of a heart attack suffered at his home in Marana.

During his career with the Department, Lt. Rogers served a number of years as District 8 commander in Tucson. During Pope John Paul II's visit to Phoenix in September 1987, the Prescott native was a member of the DPS papal security team.

After beginning his DPS career in 1970, he was promoted to sergeant in 1977. Three years later, he promoted to lieutenant.

Prior to DPS, Lt. Rogers attended public

schools in Prescott and served four years in the U.S. Navy. Upon retiring from DPS, Lt. Rogers purchased and operated three Mail Boxes Etc., stores in the Tucson area which he and his partner sold in 2003.

His wife Andrea survives along with two sons and a grandson. Also surviving are his mother, Violetta Chemas; a sister, Trudy; and brothers Joe, a retired DPS officer, and Frank Chemas.

He was preceded in death by another brother, Tom, also a retired DPS officer.

Memorials may be sent to the Gospel Rescue Mission of Tucson, 3267 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ 85713.

## Services held for retiree Chuck Fellers

Funeral services were conducted in Glendale July 10 for Charles S. "Chuck" Fellers, 74, a retired DPS civilian employee who passed away July 4 in Peoria.

Mr. Fellers, a criminal intelligence analyst, retired from DPS in 1994 following 17 years of service. Prior to DPS, the Ohio native served 20 years as a military intelligence analyst in the U.S. Air Force.

At DPS, Mr. Fellers and Pat Ryan, who died in 1993, were credited with developing the intelligence analysis functions at DPS which eventually became today's Criminal Intelligence Research Unit.

He also was a charter member of the Southwest Chapter of the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence

Analysts.

He is survived by his wife, Mary and their three children along with two children from a previous marriage. A brother also survives.

## Cuen ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

repair, "I'll ask them if they've got family here in Tucson. If so, I help them get in touch, and I'll stay until the family can come out and pick them up."

Those he helps are grateful - but Cuen said he also encounters a lot of surly people, such as those delayed at a wreck scene.

"Then there are nice people. They ask 'Are you OK?' and give me a soda," Cuen said. "But mostly, it's a thankless job."

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## Down the Highways

### August 1969

DPS came to the aid of a man whose boat was sinking off the coast of Florida.

L.W. Oehlbeck was breezing along in his 40-foot cruiser when a log punctured the boat's hull. Realizing that he was sinking, Oehlbeck tried to radio a Jacksonville marine operator but couldn't get through.

He then switched to a citizen's band radio, hoping to contact a nearby fishing camp or boat yard. He soon got a response and requested immediate assistance.

The man on the other end said help may take a minute or two because he was talking from Mesa, Ariz.

The astonished Mesa resident called DPS who then sent a teletype to the Florida Highway Patrol, who then called the Coast Guard. By that time, however, the man in the sinking boat had run his craft aground.

\*\*\*

DPS officers assisted five agencies in tracking down six men who escaped from the Yuma County Jail Aug. 9. Three were found hiding in the brush near the Colorado River, but the other three disappeared. A *Yuma Daily Sun* photo showed Officers Vic Andrews and C.C. Farnsworth planning a search along the Colorado River with the U.S. Border Patrol.

### August 1974

Four Tucson DPS patrolmen, whose motorcycle experience ranged from none to extensive, have returned from a three-week motorcycle training course in Phoenix. The new motorcycle patrolmen are Samuel

Fragala, 27; Ron Lewis, 26; Larry Davis, 26; and Walter Carroll, 25.

The motorcyclists will be able to zip through congested traffic conditions and more quickly respond to accident scenes and traffic tie-ups that paralyze patrol cars, the *Tucson Daily Citizen* reported.

### August 1984

A retired DPS officer initiated Arizona's largest cocaine seizure on Aug. 14. The impromptu drug bust resulted in the confiscation of three pickup loads of cocaine carrying 1,370 pounds of the narcotic and having a street value of \$148 million.

Retired Arizona Highway Patrolman Frank V. Gillette was gathering firewood at about 9:30 a.m. west of the Young airport when he saw a large aircraft make an approach. Gillette became suspicious immediately after that when he noticed very unusual activity on the airport's neighboring roads.

He quickly telephoned DPS Narcotics Officer Ron Cox whose assistance led to the eventual seizure. Lt. Jim Moody, commander of North Central Narcotics District, credited Gillette with making the bust possible.

### August 1989

Arizona Gov. Rose Mofford made a special trip to DPS Aug. 7 to present Director Rick Ayars with the silver eagle emblems of a bird colonel. She said the emblems were "just a little token of our appreciation about your appointment and what you have done for Arizona and for the governor."

Ayars was appointed DPS director on Aug. 1 replacing Ralph Milstead. Mofford made the official announcement at a news conference in Phoenix July 1.

\*\*\*

DPS Officer James Combs, recently named officer of the year by the FOP, died Aug. 11 after suffering a severe asthma attack while on duty. Memorial services were in Flagstaff Aug. 15.

Combs, who died at Flagstaff Medical Center, had a childhood history of asthma, but no adult recurrences and was not under medication for the condition.

### August 1994

Lt. Debra L. Howard topped the list of those qualifying for the FBI national academy, Director Rick Ayars announced during the Aug. 1 executive staff meeting.

Following Howard in qualifying order were Lt. Iven Wooten, Sgt. Larry Burns, Sgt. Karl Kjellstrom, Sgt. David Myers and Lt. Jack Wilson. Ayars said the names of the first three candidates will be forwarded to the FBI for processing.

\*\*\*

Director Rick Ayars promoted 16 officers to sergeant during ceremonies Aug. 22 at headquarters in Phoenix.

The new sergeants are Brett Farrar, Robbie Milam, Dansen Coleman, Kim Cline, Jack Kostelnik, T.J. Cramer, Gary Phelps, Bill Duff, Ann FitzGerald, Mike Bonin, Dane Sanders, Tom Woodward, Karl Goldsmith, Jeff Trapp, Dave Hechler and John Whetten.